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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 026595-005900US

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: / Stephanie Klepp /
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Mark Thompson, et al.

Application No.: 10/032,796

Filed: December 26, 2001

For: FORMS AUDITING SYSTEMS
AND METHODS

Confirmation No. 7212

Examiner: Jacobs, Lashonda T.

Technology Center/Art Unit: 2157

INTERVIEW SUMMARY/
COMMUNICATION

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Interview Summary/Communication:

As noted in the Interview Summary prepared by Examiner Jacobs on November 9, 2007, a discussion was conducted via telephone in the present matter on November 6, 2007. Examiner Jacobs and Examiner Salad participated. As specifically set forth by Examiner Jacobs, an agreement was reached that the Examiner would call the Applicants to provide guidance in the matter. Examiner Salad (a senior examiner to Ms. Jacobs) admitted in the interview that U.S. Patent No. 6,600,482 ("Leone") failed to teach the limitations of the claims (specifically, independent claim 16 was discussed). Thus, with this concession and the agreement from the Office to provide guidance, Applicants reasonably expected that either a Notice of Allowance, recommended amendment, or Office Action with new cited art would be forthcoming. These were the options that were raised in the discussion of November 6, 2007.

Applicants followed up the discussion with several calls to Examiner Jacobs, seeking the promised guidance. Ms. Jacobs stated on at least two occasions that they were still considering the options, but that the promised guidance was forthcoming. However, in response to my continued follow-up, on or about December 3, Examiner Jacobs suddenly changed her position, stating that Applicants should instead provide a response without any of the promised guidance from the Office.

This change prompted Applicants to call Examiner Etienne, the direct supervisor of Examiner Jacobs. This call went unreturned.

It is also worth noting the case was pulled off of Appeal to enter the Office Action dated July 16, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

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